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repose most of the subjects which have heretofore been supposed to make up American history. Not content with concentrating attention upon commercial growth he cannot refrain from constantly indicating how unimportant in his eyes are wars, politics, legislation, personalities, and events in general. He does this by epithets, by phraseology, by extreme brevity and visible indifference. Side by side he employs two styles, one clear-cut, vigorous, plausible, to describe social changes, the other tentative, general, frequently vague, to deal with the narrative. We are told authoritatively just what the public land system did for the country, but we are left in the dark as to how Texas came to be annexed. Forty thousand Americans settled in Texas, after which, we are told, "There could be but one outcome of such a condition, the establishment of the independence of Texas, which took place in 1836, and then annexation to the United States." This is not an extreme instance, but fairly typical.

One wonders for what audience the book was written. In spite of its admirable chapters on commerce and settlement, it would scarcely be usable by college classes on account of its persistent vagueness in other fields. As for the general reader, while he could hardly fail to be interested in the social chapters, he might well be puzzled if not repelled by the blasé atmosphere of the narrative. If nothing that men fought and died for—the slavery question, for instance—was really more than an episode in westward development; if the Abolitionists are not worthy of a single mention; if the recurring phrases "it is idle to discuss", "of little importance", "a mere incident", are the true essence of historical judgment, it is but a short step to the first chapter of Ecclesiastes.

THEODORE CLARKE SMITH.

Histoire de la Fondation de la Nouvelle Orléans (1717-1722). Par le Baron MARC DE VILLIERS, avec un Préface de M. GABRIEL HANOTAUX, Membre de l'Académie Française. (Paris: Imprimerie Nationale. 1918. Pp. xvi, 130.)

THE indomitable spirit of France is evidenced by this book. In the third year of the war, at a time when the nation was gathering all its energies for a death-grapple with its brutal enemy, M. de Villiers (who was conducting a hospital for the wounded at his home in Brittany) and the national printery joined in producing a work that bears no mark of the strain of that year of horrors. The text is suggestive of "the quiet and still air of delightful studies", and the mechanical execution and dress of the book fall in no way below the highest standard of French workmanship and taste.

The book tells the story of the founding of the capital of the French colony of Louisiana, that colony of which France had such high hopes and to which she gave so many heroic men; and it concludes with a word of promise, in spirit like a benediction, of a still greater future for the capital city.

Louisiana's greatest enemy and best friend has always been the water. The great river drowned it with its floods, but gave a highway for its commerce. On the shores of the river the growth of the great city of the country was inevitable. The higher ground at the river end of the portage from Lake Pontchartrain was observed by Iberville as early as 1699. The first suggestion that a post be established at the place seems to have been made by the Sieur de Remonville in 1702.

Remonville was an active man, a merchant, who had ascended the river to the Illinois as early as 1697. He seems to have been a writer as well; and in his *Lettre Historique touchant le Mississipi* in 1702, in a *Mémoire* in 1708, and in a *Description du Mississipi* in 1715 he persistently urges the establishment of an *entrepôt* at the place mentioned.

M. de Villiers gives the story of Remonville with a note of pathos. Completely ruined in his fortune he returned to France where he was hounded by his creditors. In December, 1717, he appealed to the government for a position in Louisiana, urging that he was the only one who had sacrificed himself to give aid to the colonists. He was not listened to, and we hear no more of him. Bienville was the next to take up the matter, and it was by his persistence that the site was finally chosen. The Council of the Marine on October 1, 1717, appointed a magazine-keeper and a cashier at the commercial establishment (*comptoir*) which shall be set up at New Orleans; and it is this date, of which the Comité du Souvenir Franco-Américain has chosen to celebrate the bi-centenary by this publication. But while this action of the council was a recognition of the unsatisfactory position of the posts then existing, it did not by the designation Nouvelle Orléans refer to a fixed place. For more than four years the matter remained in dispute. It was not until May, 1722, that the establishment which Bienville had begun was formally accepted by an order to transfer the seat of government to New Orleans.

The people at the old establishments, if such they may be called, resisted change; and those who had made new establishments on the Mississippi, at Manchac and at Natchez, intrigued to have their places chosen for the capital. Floods and hurricanes came to strengthen the opposition. The authorities in France, in comfortable ignorance, listened, and hesitated, and vacillated. But the trade was on the river, and Bienville demonstrated the value of the situation by sending a ship up to the site of New Orleans and mooring it at the shore. At Biloxi ships could not come within three or four leagues of the shore; goods could be carried to land only by three changes from small to yet smaller boats, and even then carts had to be sent out a hundred paces into the shallow water to meet the last relay. The cost of all of this had to be added to the cost price of the goods.

In a price-list ordained by the Company of the West in 1719 it is provided that goods will be delivered at New Orleans at a price five per cent. greater than at Biloxi, and "Aux Illinois et au Missouri" at fifty

per cent. more. British traders were pressing westward from Carolina. All these things strengthened Bienville's position and forced a final decision. The matter once settled all opposition ceased, and enemies became devoted supporters. M. de Villiers calls attention to the fact that Pénicaut, Charlevoix, and others writing of the place described what was to be hoped for, rather than what really existed. Of all descriptions of New Orleans at that time, the most exact, says M. de Villiers, seems to be that of the Abbé Prévost, except for the mention of the hill. Prévost's description is in his story of *Manon Lescaut*. M. de Villiers makes a study of the basis of that story, tracing the characters and events in a most interesting manner. He also takes up in the same way those other contemporary romances of European connection, so dear to the hearts of the *Louisianais*, the story of the Princess Charlotte of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, wife of the Tsarevitch Alexis, and that of the beautiful Desbrosses, the *élève* of Molière. The author's great familiarity with the literature of early Louisiana, both printed and unprinted, has enabled him to put all of these things and many more in the eight delightful chapters of the book, and to speak the final word on the subject. He has earned the gratitude of all who love that most individual of all American cities. An eloquent preface by M. Gabriel Hanotaux adds much to the volume. The printing is exquisite; there is a portrait of Bienville, a number of maps, plans, views, and daintily designed and executed decorative figures.

WALTER B. DOUGLAS.

Georgia as a Proprietary Province: the Execution of a Trust. By JAMES ROSS MCCAIN, Ph.D., Professor of American History in Agnes Scott College. (Boston: Richard G. Badger; Toronto: Copp Clark Company. [1917.] Pp. 357. \$2.50.)

HITHERTO the institutional organization and development of the province of Georgia have been almost ignored. Now at last we have the above luminous and interesting volume by a pupil of the late Professor Herbert L. Osgood of Columbia University. On the basis of a careful study of the printed sources and of unprinted and hitherto unused original manuscripts and transcripts in the state capitol at Atlanta and in the possession of Professor Osgood, our author's ten chapters treat successively of: I. The Creation of the Trust; II. Personnel of the Trustees; III. Relation of Oglethorpe to Georgia; IV. Organization and Activities of the Trust in England; V. Organization of the Executive in Georgia; VI. Legislative History of the Province; VII. Judiciary; VIII. Land System; IX. Educational Progress; and X. Religious History of Early Georgia. The volume has a very careful analytical table of contents, a working bibliography, and an index which is good though not quite complete as to proper names.

The Georgia Trust was created by the royal charter issued on June